

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system for conducting multiple-item search queries in a system for engaging in electronic commerce, comprising:

one or more central processing units;

~~system software for controlling said one or more central processing units;~~

storage means communicating with said one or more central processing units containing one or more databases with information regarding suppliers and supplier inventories of products/services available for purchase;

one or more servers providing for Internet-based access and use of said system;

one or more software applications enabling means for buyers of products/services seeking to complete a purchase including multiple different types and quantities of products/services via electronic commerce to enter a single search query including each of said types of said multiple products/services sought to be purchased and then run a series of individual product/service searches for each of said multiple products/services in said query on said information regarding suppliers and supplier inventories of products/services available for purchasing, and render as search results a ranked listing of one or more suppliers that search for have inventory for the greatest number of said types of said multiple products/services sought to be purchased, and indicating the types and quantities of said products/services in the inventory of each of said one or more suppliers. multiple different types of products/services sought to be purchased in an order by entering a single search query;

~~means for providing search results with respect to said multiple product/service query;
said search results being grouped and ranked by supplier based on which supplier has inventory
for the greatest number of queried products/services and can best fill said entire order.~~

2. (original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for buyers to transmit requests for quotation to said system, means for said system to transmit requests for quotation to selected suppliers, means for suppliers to transmit quotations to buyers in response to requests for same.

3. (original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for buyers to purchase goods/services by linking directly to supplier ordering systems.

4. (previously withdrawn) A method for buyers and supplier of products/services to engage in commerce, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a searchable supplier products/services information database to search for desired items;

submitting in a single query search queries for multiple products/services;

providing search results for multiple products/services in response to said query, said search results being grouped and ranked by supplier based on which supplier has inventory for the greatest number of queried products/services;

receiving from buyers requests for quotation for goods/services directed to suppliers listed in said search results;

sending said requests for quotation to selected suppliers; and

sending to buyers supplier quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.

5. (currently amended) In a computerized system for electronic commerce comprising one or more central processing units, system software for controlling said one or more central processing units and storage means containing one or more databases with information regarding suppliers and products/services available:

one or more software applications integrated thereto for use by system users to submit ~~providing users of said application with means for submitting~~ search queries to said system for multiple different types and quantities of products/services sought to be purchased via electronic commerce, said search queries being in the form of a single query including each of said multiple types of products/services sought to be purchased in said order, and receive as search results in response to said multiple product/service query a ranked listing of one or more suppliers that have inventory for the most types of said multiple products/services and indicating the types and quantities of said products/services in the inventory of each of said one or more suppliers. ~~in an order and providing search results with respect to said multiple different product/service item search queries that are grouped and ranked by product/service supplier based on which product/service supplier has inventory for the greatest number of queried products/service items and can best fill said entire order.~~

6. (previously withdrawn) A method for buyers and supplier of products/services to engage in electronic commerce, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a computer-based searchable supplier products/services information database to search for desired items;

submitting in a single query search queries for multiple products/services;

providing search results for multiple products/services in response to said query, said search results being grouped and ranked by supplier based on which supplier has inventory for the greatest number of queried products/services;

receiving from buyers requests for quotation for goods/services directed to suppliers listed in said search results;

sending said requests for quotation to selected suppliers; and

sending to buyers supplier quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.